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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,722	06/05/2006	Hyun-Ki Kim	0001.1202	8568
49455	7590	12/23/2008	EXAMINER	
STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP			MULVANEY, ELIZABETH EVANS	
1400 EYE STREET, NW			ART UNIT	
SUITE 300			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			1794	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/23/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/581,722	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.
	Examiner Elizabeth E. Mulvaney	Art Unit 1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0/5/06
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 2003/0152739.

A recording medium comprising a substrate having pits formed therein and a super-resolution layer thereon is disclosed. See claim 8.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 17, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,965,556.

The reference discloses a recording medium having a substrate with pits therein and a functional layer thereon. The functional layer may be formed of an oxide (super-resolution material) or phase-change material (thermal absorption material). See layer 10 and cols. 11 and 18 for materials. The reproducing method and apparatus are found in claim 1 and col. 26.

Claims 1-3, 14, 16, 20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 7,087,284.

The reference discloses a recording medium having a substrate with pits formed therein and a super-resolution layer thereon. See figure 3/col. 4. The super-resolution layer is formed of metal

oxides. See col. 4. The method of reproducing and apparatus are found in Examples and Experimental Example 1.

Claims 7-10, 12-17, 22-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 7,172,798.

The reference discloses a substrate with pits formed therein, a reading-assist layer (thermal absorption layer) a dielectric layer, and a mask layer (super-resolution layer). The read-assist and mask layers are formed of the claimed materials. See col. 4. The reproducing method and apparatus are found in the Examples and Experimental Example 1.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 7,390,547.

The reference discloses the same recording medium which may comprise multiple super-resolution layers and multiple thermal absorption layers where at least one super-resolution layer or thermal absorption layer is in contact with the substrate. See claims 1-8, 10-11. The super-resolution reproduction method and apparatus is disclosed. See col. 1.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-25 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8, 10-11 of U.S. Patent No. 7,390,547. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they cover the same

recording medium having multiple super-resolution layers and multiple thermal absorption layers where at least one super-resolution layer or thermal absorption layer is in contact with the substrate. The materials forming the layers are not claimed but, when looking to the specification to further define the claims, the materials are found. This is also the case with the reproducing method and apparatus for reproducing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth E. Mulvaney whose telephone number is 571-272-1527. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elizabeth E. Mulvaney/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794